Publishers :

Om Dutt Sharma
For MARUBHARTI,
Dadheechi Kutir,
P.O. BAGAR (Jhunjhunu)
(Rajasthan) INDIA

Printers :

S. K. Bhardwaj
MANOHAR PTG. PRESS,
Beawar (Raj.) India

Can be had from :

K. KASINATH
Mail Order Agency,
BASAVANGUDI P. O.
BANGLORE-4
(India)

*

Price :

INDIA Rs. 4 . 50
U. K. 3 shillings
U.S A. ($) 35 cents

Our Pledge ..

WE, **the Desert Scouts** *will*
do our best to Be-prepared
for the **Desert Welfare** *i.e.*
to make the desertland :

1) **G***REEN : through activities of desert craft (viz. conservation of natural resources etc.)*

2) **G***LORIOUS : by reviving the cultural & historical heritage and folk art & craft of the desert; and*

3) **G***AY : by serving the desert people to make them conservation-minded and to achieve better living standard for happiness-in-hard life.*

(PUBLISHED ON PAGE 2)

*　　*　　*

'DESERT SCOUTING" DEVELOPED IN INDIA

After several years of experimentation, "Desert Scouting" has now joined Air Scouting and Sea Scouting as a branch of General Scouting in the Bharat Scouts and Guides. Developed in the state of Rajasthan, which is two-thirds covered by the Thar Desert, Special projects tests and badges were evolved and approved to meet the particular requirements of people living in the Desert. The finding, storing and purifying of water, soil conservation, desert diseases and dangers are included in the training of Desert Cubs, Scouts and Rover Scouts.

Great importance is given to the camel and becoming expert in knowing their types and characterstics, habits and gaits, prevention of "Winter

madness" and other camel diseases and how to saddle a camel plus traveling 30 miles on camel-back (in journies of over 10 miles each) can qualify a Scout for the new "Camelman" badge. Other special badges and requirements include customs and ways of life of desert dwellers, navigation by stars, desert crafts and folklore, reforestation, Service in anti-locust campaigns and weather forecasting by desert folk saying and proverbs. (Technical documents, extracts available to NEWS-LETTER readers.)

Carvan on March . .

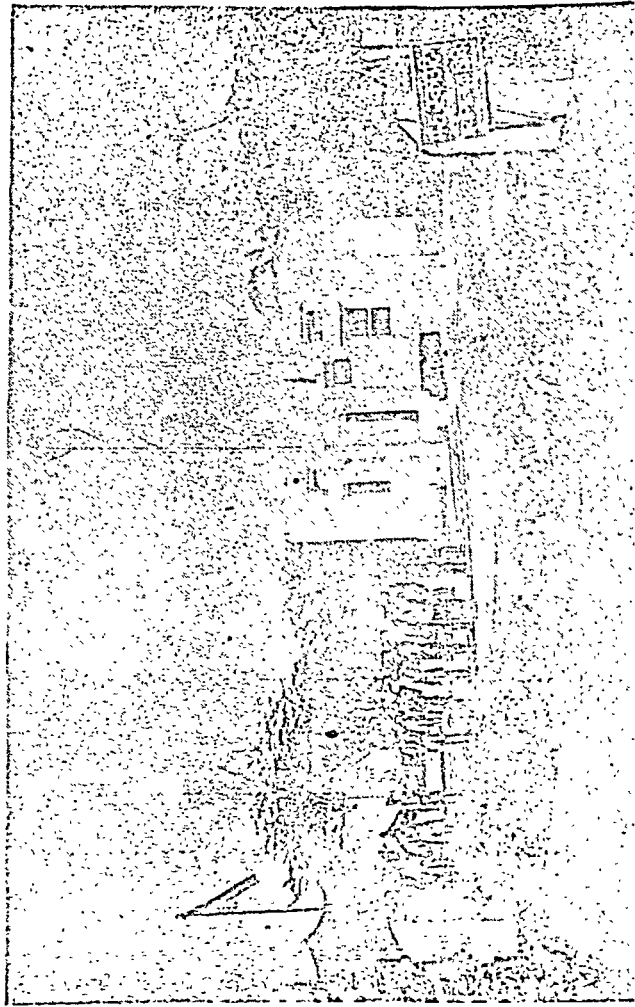
Desert Scouting

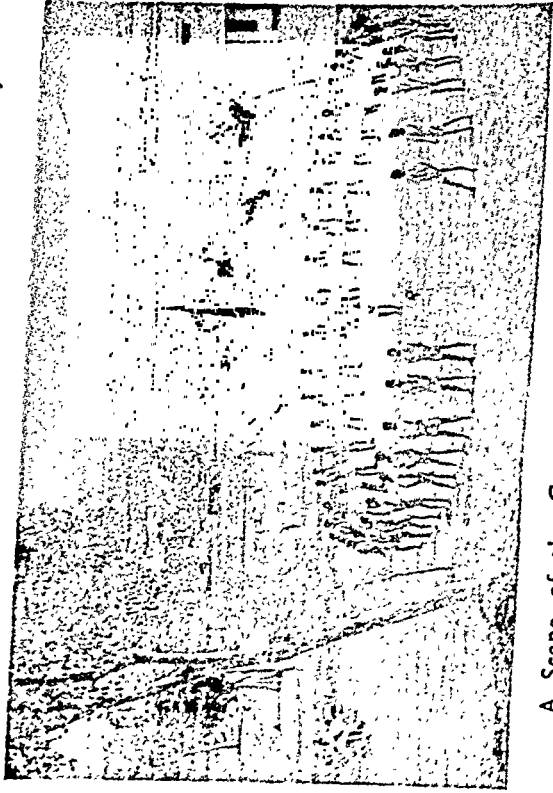
: Special Badge

1956

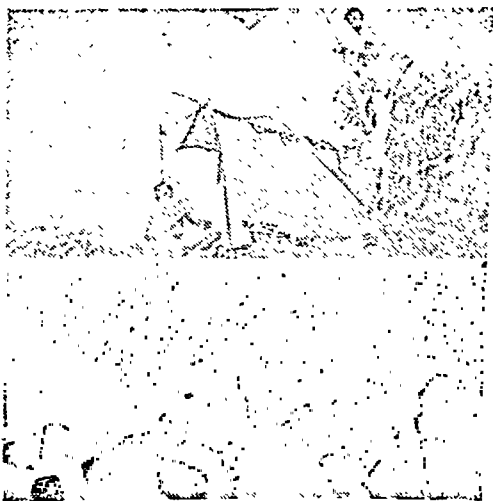
(1956 to 1967 Experimental Stage)

.... LET T

THE SANCHORE-EXPERIMENT—(1967): (A Scene)

First Training Course of . . .

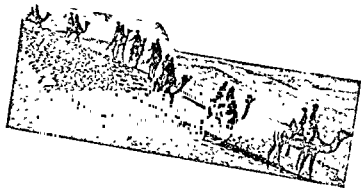
DESERT CUB MASTERS (1966)

A Scene of the Camp at Chhani Head (Bhadra)

First training camp of
DESERT SCOUTS
at Scout-Tila
Mukandgarh–1955

Desert Cubs Playing
a Game
at
Sanchore

Let
the Desert
be
GREEN

A tree-top shelter by Desert Scouts
at SANCHORE
(1965)

LIFE IN DESERT . . .

"Look at the carvan is moving!"

"Those who know the desert respect it as knowing sailors respect the sea."

LET THE DESERT BE GREEN!

Our Wealth . . .

(Sheep in desert)

The Sheep-farming is one of the main occupations of the people living in the Thar Desert.

.. A Tedious Task ..

(Fetching Water)

Water ! .. Water is life .. a tedious task to fetch water from a distant place but the women folk has turned it into a community work when they bring water in groups singing a folk song !

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An Oasis : ..

(A De

The Sand-dunes are like
are trying to turn ti
. . . Life in a des
but the des..
smillingly . . .
craft to ac'

Some Challenging ideas & thoughts

Scouting is eternal as an ideal and is dynamic-ever evolving as a movement to suit the particular conditions, i.e. environment and needs, of the country.

Hence Desert Scouting as a special branch is the natural outcome of Scouting itself

The glimpses of this challenge may be traced out in these random thoughts and ideas.

★ ★ ★

—Dutt.

Scouting Aims :

B. P Said in his 'SCOUTING FOR BOYS'

- *I suppose every boy wants to help his countr in some way or other. There is a way by which he can do so easily, and that is by becoming a BOY SCOUT.*

Scouting is useful in any kind of life you like to take up .

* * *

(Comp Fire yarn No 1)

- But just like Sea Scouts, they (*Air Scouts, also Desert Scouts*) have to be as well trained as all other Scouts in ordinary Scouting on land, for

An Oasis :

(A Desert Village)

The Sand-dunes are like mountains of sand, but the people are trying to turn these dunes into green mounds . . .
. . . Life in a desert-village is full of hardship, but the desertmen could face these odds smillingly . . . Here comes the **desert-craft** to achieve "the desert welfare" !

We have to see that Scouting Activities are suitable for local conditions and needs

—P. A. Siebold, Secretary
Boy Scouts World Bureau
in 'Trends in World Scouting'
(BSG-June 1967)

- Scouting is different in every country where it exists . methods differ everywhere and it's only right that they should, for people and their needs and habits differ widely too.

—Scout Leader s Hand Book
(U. K -1967, Page 155)

- *I have heard few more moving sentences than that of a desert based Scout who told me that "Scouting has made the desert a beautiful place to live in."* ....

"Boy are the same the World over"—this is utter nonsence All human beings evolve out of the environment into which they are born and in which they grow up .The purpose of Scouting can, and in my estimation should always be the same but the method by which we seek to achieve the aim must be different if there is to be any universal success ...

.. I would like to see Scouting concerned only ith what it has to offer the boy of today

We have to see that Scouting Activities are suitable *for local conditions and needs*

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Boy Scouts World Bureau
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.. I would like to see Scouting concerned only with what it has to offer the boy of today

The Desert

challange.................. ....a concern of all

- To most people, the desert is a desolate, uninhabited place with little beauty. They just have'nt taken the time or picked the season to look.

—BOY SCOUT HAND BOOK
(U. S A.-Page 158)

- The Desert's misteries, great and small, are as endlessly alluring to man of science as its magnificences are to the film-makers.. Here the botanist and zoologist, geographer and geologist, Soil Scientist and hydrologist all find *provocative challenges* that the better explored regions of earth no longer offer .. The ecologist looks on the desert as a community, or *series of plants & animal associations, whose* members are constantly affecting each others lives......

—The DESERT
(Life Nature Library-Page 113)

- Those who know the desert respect it as knowing sailors respect the sea. Without for a moment minimizing its dangers, they find

it a place of great facination and also of great beauty.

—The Desert (Page 9)
(Life Nature Library)

- *Soil ocnservation* : is an *international* concern ... is the concern and responsibility of all people everywhere.

—A Manual of Conservation of Soil and water (U S A.)

- *Conserving means: using and saving the* natural resources i. e. flora (forest & grasslands), fauna (animals & birds), soil (including minerals) and water.

- The real and practial meaning of *Conservation* is the wise use and management of what we have and the careful plannig for what we will need in the years ahead . ...

Conservation is about where we live, where we work and where we spend our leisure. It is also about people and their environment. Conservation concerns us as members of the Scout Movement and we must be concerned about conservation.

—The SCOUTER (Jan. '70)

- "BE CONSERVATION-*MINDED*—I will learn how to practice good conservation of soil,

waters, forests, minerals, grasslands and wild-*life;* and I will urge others to do the same. I will use sportsmanlike methods in all my out-door activities." (Page 82)

After once becoming conservation minded you will want to swing into action in the conser-vation activities planned by your patrol and troop. You *may then* have a chance to help plant a thousand trees, to improve a brook for trout, to save a stream bank from washing away, to put up brush shelters for rabbits and other small animals and many other things. (Page 87)

There is an ever growing awareness in our country of the importance of conserving and using properly our natural resources .... Work-*ing on one of the subjects . .. you are not only* earning a merit badge, you are also doing an important job for our country's welfare. (P. 372)

—BOY SCOUT HAND BOOK (U. S. A.)

- If you honestly accept this challenge, you will be *the winner* The *winner* because you *will* have the fun, adventure and enjoyment of the wonderful activities available to you.

Go ahead, pick it up !

—CANADIAN SCOUT HAND BOOK

(Page 64)

- The conservation struggle knows no frontiers and can not be confined to any particular region, country or indeed continent. ...This is indeed a crucial point, because most of the action undertaken in the field of conservation needs a number of months, if not years, before it bears fruit.........

"World Scouting"
(Apr. Jun 1970)

- Scouting and conservation, of course, go hand in hand. We are an outdoor Movement and are perhaps one of the biggest users of the countryside.

—**The Scouter** *(April '70)*

- The Secret of how to make conservation a reality is to remember that it affects us all. It is not just an advanced science for a few or a boring subject for many. Conservation affects the place we live in and the area we use for our liesure. It is of importance to Scouting generally and to each and every one of us as individuals. Who dares to say it is unimportant.

The Scouter *(July '70)*
(Programme & Training Supplement)

Desert Scouting . . .
. . . An Activity of Universal Appeal

*

- Scouting is a movement and it must move with the time, space and need of the boyhood. The training in Scout craft is only a *means* and service to the community at large in the *end* or goal of Scouting it is a universal trend to adopt or reorient Scouting according to the local need of the community & environment and '*Desert Scouting*' is a step to achieve this universal appeal.

—S. K. Dutt
In INDIA SCOUTER
(March '70)

- The 'Environment' predominates the development of a child according to 'Environmentalist School of Modern Psychology." Desert Scouting is based on 'the environment of Desert land' and as such it is based on the very foundation of Psychology.

Dr. R. D. Shastri, M. A., *Ph D.*
Editor 'Desert Scouting'
In INDIAN SCOUTER, *March* '70

* * *

Desert Scouting is not different from original Scouting, but it is Scouting with special bias of the adversities and conditions of desert land (i.e. desert craft) to make them more useful citizens in the particular conditions of the desert area. It is a special branch of Scouting and has its own scope and possibilities in the desertic countries every where. It is neither any allurement nor anything futile, as some one could think, but is an honest effort to bring home the real scouting suited to the desertic conditions and the community living there in.

—*S. K. Dutt.*

As a MOVEMENT, we have faced a challenge i. e. the challenge from the DESERT and its environment including the culture and heritage of the desert people struggling for their hard life in desertic conditions

To meet this challenge the SCOUT & GUIDES are willing to prepare themselves to BE PREPARED through—

DESERT SCOUTING

—a special branch of Scouting for desertland.

—*Dutt.*

BOY SCOUTS WORLD BUREAU
BUREAU MONDIAL DU SCOUTISME

21st October 1969

72, bd Saint-Georges, Geneva
Tele. (022) 419120
Mail Address .
Case Postale 280
1211, Geneva 11, Switzerland
Cable . WORLD SCOUT
Please quote file 500-12

Mr. S. K. Dutt Sharma,
Dadheechi Kutir,
P. O. Bagar (Jhunjhunu)
Rajasthan
India.

Dear Brother Scout,

I was very pleased indeed and most interested to read your report on desert Scouting addressed to our Secretary General, Laszlo Nagy.

I must say that it really is a most interesting experiment and you certainly deserve full credit for having been the originator of this scheme .....

... I can tell you that there

have been no other reports on desert Scouting and that your subject is therefore unique....

With many thanks for having brought this pioneering form of Scouting to our attention.

Yours Sincerely
Sd/-A J. Murdoch,
Editor,
World Scouting

... What Others Say On....
DESERT SCOUTING

★

"..... I see that you have been very active in bringing Scouting to a desert environment. I find this most interesting and I hope we may have the opportunity to discuss the subject in the future .. I too have been active in quite anotherway and that is to bring Scouting to the Eskimo boys in Canada's far north. Quite different from the desert environment, but again an illustration of how Scouting can be adopted to any circumstance"

—J. B. Harvey,
Dy. Chief Scout
BOY SCOUTS OF CANADA

Feb. 24, 1970.

- "Desert Scouting is decidedly a unique venture"

—V. P. Dhanvan
National Organising Commr.
Bharat Scout & Guides, INDIA.

- ".. appreciating the good work you have been doing for the boys of desert area .. "

—S. K. DAS
National Secretary
BHARAT SCOUTS & GUIDES

18 Nov. 69.

• The present subject (of Desert Scouting) is actually an unbeaten track and has involved the imagination and originality of the writer. I feel that this booklet will not be useful for Desert Scouts only, but will be a fine guide book for even the rest of Scouts. Our Scouting needs Indianisation & the present effort is a great step forward in that direction.

—**Vir Dev 'Vir'**

19-1-68 *State Organising Commr.*

PUNJAB & HARIYANA

• "...Desert Scouting is the contribution by Rajasthan. I hope Rajasthan will be able to provide a new direction in this sphere..."(Translated from Hindi).

J. S. Mehta

30-8-69 *State Chief Commr.*

Rajasthan State

• I fully hope that under the leadership of a thinker and a profound worker like you, this branch (of Desert Scouting) will be strengthened and it will certainly prove to be beneficial to its members as well as serve the people at large"

(Translated from Hindi)

—**Vishnudutt Sharma**

30-8-69 *State Commissioner*

Rajasthan State

• " ... the various continents of the world which have got thousands miles of Sandy areas, will surely give a deep thought to DESERT SCOUTING. Naturally, there will be need of new tests etc to suit the sphere .. . Shri S. K. Dutt Sharma should be congratulated on his achievement.

—P. Joseph (Jammu)
IN "INDIAN SCOUTER"
(Feb '70)

• . In the Press ..

INDIAN'S DESERT ENRICHES WORLD SCOUT MOVEMENT—It is a unique contribution.

—Nafen (News Agency)

[Published in *Hitevada* (22-5-67), BSG Magazine June 1968, INDIAN SCOUTER-August 1969 and other newspapers etc.]

★ ★ ★

• LET THE DESERT BE GREEN :

A new experiment in Scout Movement for the Welfare of the desert. It is a great contribution by India to the World Scouting during Diamond Jubilee year (1967).

(Feb., 17, 1968) —Hindi 'Dharmyug'

★ ★ ★

Rajasthan Started Desert Scout Movement.

—'Hindustan' (Hindi)

11th April 1967 (Page 8)

★ ★ ★

- **Desert Scouting Started by INDIA**

Rajasthan has made a unique and useful contribution to the World Scout Movement. It is DESERT SCOUTING, which aims at training boys to meet the challenges of desert life.

Feb. '68 (Page 13) —Sunshine, Poona

- First Desert Scouting Training Camp at Bikaner—a great contribution by India to World Scouting—

—Rashtradoot (Hindi)
—Rajasthan Patrika (Hirdi)
—Jhunjhunu Samachar (Hindi)
—Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
—'Hindusthan' (Hindi)
—Bharati (News Agency)
—"Agradoot" *(Dec., '69)*

- World Scout Bureau appreciates Desert Scouting. India's Mr. S. K. Dutt credited to be its 'Originator.'

—Nafen *(May 14, 1970)*
—Jhunjhunu Samachar (Hindi)
—Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
(May 15, 1970)

★ ★ ★

FOUNDER OF DESERT SCOUTING

Mr. S K. Dutt Sharma M. A., R. A. S., a renowned Scouter of Rajasthan has made a name by starting a new branch of the movement i. e. 'Desert Scouting'. He has drawn up a comprehensive scheme and also a special badge for this new branch......We congratulate Mr. Sharma on his new successful venture, and trust the Scout Association in India as well as abroad will include this important section in their training.

(Dec. '69) —Editor 'Indian Scouter'

- ......At least for the countries situated in the West of India, it will prove to be a useful scheme Shri S K. Dutt deserves congratulations for this from all of us......

—R. S Dhiman
(*Camp Chief, India*)
(in AGRADOOT–April 1967)

Reports :

- Desert Scouting : A new experiment—approved by NHQ of the Bharat Scouts & Guides.

—Rajasthan Sovenior,
All India Jamboree 1967

- .. The special program of this year (1966–67) was the Desert Scouting experimental Camp

at Sanchore, which has been warmly received in the country as well as abroad...The Scheme has special potentialities in the Arid zone...Shri Shrikrishana Dutt Sharma deserves special thanks for this venture.

—Abstract from Annual Report (in Hindi)
1966-67 of the Rajasthan State
Bharat Scouts and Guides.

"Let the desert be green..."

Desert Scouting: For the Welfare of Desert

INDIA'S DESERT ENRICHES WORLD SCOUT MOVEMENT

□ *R. D Shastri, M A.*

In the year 1907 it was a historical event when Lord Baden Powell tried an experimental camp of 20 selected boys on an island near the shore of England, called Brown sea Island In this camp many activities and ideas of wood-craft and outdoor life were tried through games & yarns. This event resulted into the inception of a Worldwide Movement of Boy Scouts, which is a most attractive programme for a large number of boys & girls in all the democratic countries to make them HAPPY, HEALTHY & HELPFUL citizens

Such an event was repeated on 28th Feb. 1967, when the idea of DESERT-SCOUTING was put to a practicl test in an experimental camp at BAJPAI SCOUT HUT, SANCHORE—a remote village deep in the desert of Rajasthan (INDIA)—with 25 experienced Scouters under the guidance of 5 senior leaders in the movement

With the boys' point of view, all the proposed activities were tried & discussed. Some new knots—viz. **Mohara, Anant & Chhinka**—were also tried which were not known to Scouting as yet. This is also a unique contribution to the knot-craft. With inspiring spirit of the camp, the campers carried the flame of Desert Scouting into the heart of Indian desert which also kindled through various newspapers throughout the world. The idea of Desert Scouting as a special branch was appreciated and was called **"a unique venture"** and **"a unique contribution by Rajasthan-and India-to the World Scout Movement"*** Mr. Ganeshi Ram D. C. C. with help of Messers Shambhu Singh, R. P. Goyal and Bhoop Singh conducted the camp. Mr. R. S. Dhiman (Now Camp-Chief, India) was there to guide this great experiment. But the inspring spirit behind this event was that of Mr S. K. Dutt Sharma,—**the originator of Desert Scouting**—who guided it with his deep learning and the originality of ideas & thoughts.

A dream realised :

The creation of DESERT SCOUTING is the fulfilment of an 11-year dream of a District Scout Commissioner in Rajasthan, **Mr. S. K. Dutt**

*NAFEN. *'Sunshine' (Feb. '68) 'Dharmyug' (Feb. 17, '68)*

Sharma. Now an officer in the State Civil Service. Mr Dutt first thought of this idea when he was a College-student at Mukandgarh in the semi-arid region of Jhunjhunu District, Rajasthan in 1956.

On February 29, 1956 at night Mr R S Dhaman inspired Mr Dutt during a discussion to use his brilliant mind to invent a scheme of SAND SCOUTING parallel to SEA SCOUTING. On March 7, the idea transformed into a draft scheme of SAND SCOUTING which was later termed DESERT SCOUTING. Mr. Dutt started the experiment in his troop at Mukandgarh and it was liked by the boys. When he went to Jodhpur, M s. M. L. Solanki, G C Bhandari & Ganeshi Ram inspired & encouraged him. His Sister Miss Sushila Solanki herself tried these activities as a Girl Guide. When the activities were found useful & interesting among the scouts & guides, the idea for a branch of Desert Scouting was established. Inspite of many difficulties on the way, the man of determination could not sit back & due to his restless efforts, the idea was put into the experimental camp at SANCHORE, as already mentioned. Some amendments to the blue print were made as a result of this camp and the final scheme has been included in the A.P.R.O. of the Bharat Scouts & Guides (India) by the end

of 1967 as a special branch.

Idea into Action :

In the first week of September 1969, **the First Desert Scouting Training Camp** was held at Devikund Sagar, Bikaner with 88 Scout Masters coming from remote desert areas of Bikaner, Ganganagar, Churu, Nagaur, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Jalore, Barmer, Sikar and Jhunjhunu—10 districts of Rajasthan. They were trained in the activities of DESERT SCOUTING e.g. afforestation of desert, sanddune stabilisation, soil conservation, conservation of water, flora and fauna, Folk Arts & Crafts, folk culture and camel riding etc. under experts' supervision. Once again Mr. Ganeshi Ram was the Incharge of the camp whereas Mr. S. K. Dutt Sharma was there to guide this great task. From the birth centenary day of Mahatma Gandhi, a huge-army of about 3000 young Desert Scouts has launched this scheme into action and this number is to increase every year. Other desertic countries of the world are looking forward to this new branch which will be a world wide activity very soon.

The Concept of 'Desert Scouting' :

Modelled on Air and Sea Scouting, the new branch is intended to train the youngesters in the particular conditions of desert area. It is

SCOUTING with special bias of the activities and conditions of the desertland.

The desert is god-given and its natural environment—sand & soil, flora & fauna, climate & weather, etc has challenged the man and created many hazards in life e g. scarcity of water, draught & famine, march of desert, soil-erosion, salanity of water and soil, evasion of locust etc, which a man in the desert has to face boldly and scientifically. DESERT SCOUTING, therefore, is meant to prepare the younger generation to face all these odds and to survine better with the help of the activities of **scout craft** combined with **desert craft** to achieve **desert welfare.**

Inspite of the natural hazards & difficulties, How to live in the desert and how to make use of the scout craft under these conditions to promote better living in the desert ?—This all come under '**Desert craft**' which includes six elements, viz, (i) **Nature** & its problems, (ii) **Man** & his efforts & activities to minimize these difficulties, and folklife, (iii) Conservation of soil and (iv) water, (v) flora and (vi) fauna includin Animal husbandry. This **desert craft** is method whereas the **desert welfare** is our which means—in the words of Mr. Dutt,

make the desertland G[3] (Green, Glorious and Gay)". **Desert welfare** is a collective and planned effort by scouts to serve the people in desert life and as such "**Desert Scouting** is a coordinated and planned programme of Scout craft, Desert craft and Desert welfare". To attain this aim a Desert Scout is trained in those crafts, skills & activities which lead to turn the desert into a green pasterland and to help the authorities in such service projects. And, this, they will be happy, healthy and helpful citizen of the country.

Its Scope & Possibilities :

Its scope is wide and the possibilities are eternal. The **Thar**—Great Indian Desert is on march towards the plains i. e. Agra & Mathura districts of U. P., West Hariyana and Delhi States and as such it may prove to be a very useful activity in these states also in addition to Rajasthan.

It could become a popular and useful feature of life in many arid and semi-arid countries of the world e.g. Pakistan, Iran, the UAR, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Jordon, Maxico, Chile, Ghana, Australia etc.

Modern man is growing rich in the desert applying his high powered technology to the problems of developing arid areas. He is finding

new sources of water, learning to grow lush crops recovering great mineral wealth and trying to turn the desertland green. The Desert Scouts will, therefore, have activities & projects in abundance till the ideal of Desert welfare in not fully attained.

Its Activities & Organisation :

All the Desert Scouts in INDIA will be given a special badge of this branch which depicts three date-palm trees standing on three sand-dunes under the Scout Guide Emblem. Some other countries may like to adopt the camel badge as proposed for the first time, which is given here

As per the general organisation of scouting, the special branch of Desert Scouting includes three units viz. Desert Cubs (7-11 years); Desert Scouts (12-17) and Desert Rover Scouts (Above 17). Some activities and projects relating to desertic conditions have been included in their present scheme of training at various stages. They also wear camel colour socks in their uniforms

with special badge & scrolls etc. There are at present three special Proficiency Badges open to Desert Scouts viz. **Desert folk, Camel man & Soil Conservation.** Out of them Desert folk and Soil conservation are also open to Desert Rover Scouts with some specific modifications.

A Great Contribution :

The scheme of Desert Scouting has opened the doors for more & more new activities for the scouts living in deserts. Its conservation aspect is so useful that it may be adopted by normal scouts in other areas too. It has been a unique contribution of India to World Scout Movement in the year of Diamond Jubilee (1967) and it is more important that it came into action in the Gandhi Centenary year (1969) in India. It is hoped that soon it will be cherished by all the desertic countries of the world as a useful activity for scouts living in deserts and then, in the words of Mr. Dutt—"the whole world will be full of the spirit of Desert Welfare to enrich the humanity at large and every one will sing joyfully :-

"Now the days have been changed,
With labour, love we must engaged,
'Let the desert be green'—with flowering"

o o o

Desert Scouting
IN
Action

* Like Air and Sea Scouting, Desert-Scouting is a special branch with special reference to conditions of deserts
* Desert Scouting is not something different from basic scouting, rather it is Scouting with special bias of desert activities.

Desert Scouting is a planned and co-ordinated program of Scoutcraft, Desertcraft & Desert-Welfare.

Desert-Welfare means to make the desertlands **G**reen, **G**lorious & **G**ay. It is an whereas Desertcraft is the means to ac

Desert Scouting

(*Basic Scouting* + *Desert Activities*)

SCOUTCRAFT + DESERTCRAFT *For* DESERT WELFARE
(as means to.................. ......an end)

1. Living in Open	1. Nature	
2. Wood craft	2. Man & life	to make the desertland,
	Conservation of	
3. Chivalry	3. Soil	Green
4. Saving Life	4. Water	Glorious, &
5. Endurance	5. Flora &	Gay
6. Love your country	6. Fauna	

this is

D E S E R T   S C O U T I N G

I
Desert Scouting
An ideology

□'Maru = Desert' means 'Sandy area, abandoned; any region destitute of water. A desert may be hot or cold, but if a place has very little water and vegetation; it is called Desert § .. "Aridity" is a conspicious and constant feature of desert'-Ω*

Thus the term 'desert' has many connotations, but only one denotation, i.e it is a barrenland with scarcity of water and consequently that of vegetation "The desert is man's future land bank offering eight million square miles of space for human occupation It is wondrously rich bank which may turn green when men some day taps distilled sea water for irrigation."

dangers and
and also of
us to think
desertland,

* Amar Kosh (2 : 5); English-Sanskrit Dictionary : By V. S. Apte.

§ Encyclopedea World Book : Vol. IV, Page 131.

Ω Encyclopedea Britannica : Vol. VII, Page

8 THE DESERT : Life Nature Library

B. P. warned us —"First I had an **idea**, then I saw an **ideal**: Now we have a MOVEMENT and if **some** of you don't watch out, we shall **end up** just an ORGANISATION." He once again said—"A SCOUT who nas attained the highest rank is *one who, having thoroughly trained himself* in Scout-craft; places that training at *the disposal of the community for Public Service*"

These ideas led us to think of the orientation of tl.e *present day Scouting to suit the conditions of* desert to make the movement dynamic and eternal and to provide a wide scope of public services or goodturns in form of the **desert-welfare**, as I have called it. With this view we have successfully launched the scheme of Desert Scouting as a special branch of Scouting with special bias of activities to meet the challenge of desert to mankind with the new slogan of—

"LET THE DESERT BE GREEN"

This has been regarded as a UNIQUE EXPERIMENT, *but to my mind it is really the trans*formation or orientation of what we already had *in our present program in disguise. It is only the* special bias or consciousness toward the forces of nature working in the desert and to combate them with organised human efforts. The awareness of the conservation of natural resources is a universal phenomena and in recent years we have also taken up the program of "conservation' in Scouting, but in Desert Scouting, this program has been given in the form of activities. The scheme with 12 years' successful thinking and experiments has now been included in the A. P. R. O. of the Bharat Scouts & Guides in INDIA and it is hoped that this will

XI

The Scheme of Desert Scouting in India

The Scheme introduced and accepted by the National Headquarters of the Bharat Scouts and Guides (India) in 1967 is being reproduced here from the A. P. R. O.

*   *   *   *   *

Aims, Policy, Rules & Organisation

Part I

Rule 30 (c) The following are considered as general members of the Association, so long as they are properly serving in the ranks or positions enumerated.

(i) Scouts:-Who are members of a registered Group or are themselves registered as Lone Scouts, Lone Senior Scouts, Handicapped Scouts, Lone Rovers, Air Scouts, Sea Scouts or Deep Sea Scouts or **Desert Scouts.**

Headquarters' Commissioners & Advisers.

Rule 87 (a) At the S. H. Q various departments such

Section VIII Group Organisation

The Scout and Guide Groups

199. Composition

*   *   *   *

(3) Except where the context requires otherwise, the word, 'troop' includes a Sea Scout Troop, Air Scout Troop, **Desert Scout Troop,** Handicapped Scout Troop and word "Crew" includes a Sea Rover Crew, an Air Rover Crew and **Desert Rover Scout Crew**. [The word 'Pack' includes "Desert Cub Pack also.]

*   *   *   *

Rule 200. Senior Scouts/Guides.

'...... Patrol of Senior Scouts can work in a Group on Sea Scouts or Air Scouts or **Desert Scouts** activities, provided Instructor specially qualified for the conduct of these activities is available.

Section X Uniform

277. : Scouts.

(I) (i) ***Shoulder Badge*** : *Members* of the Group which have Sea or Air or **Desert Scout** Sections must not include the words "Sea Scouts" or "Air Scouts" or "**Desert Scouts**" in the group title. A **Flash** bearing the words "SEA SCOUTS" or "AIR SCOUTS or **"DESERT SCOUTS"** in letters not more than $\frac{3}{4}$ inch high, will be worn on the shoulder strapes on both sides......

280. Desert Scouts.

Desert Scouts wear uniform as for Scouts as described in Rule 277 with the following differences :—

Head Dress :-Green Berret Cap with cap badge and a scroll with words "Desert Scouts" under it.

Stockings :-If worn shall be of Camel Colour with green garter-tabs.

Special Desert Scout Badge : All members of the Group will wear a special badge depicting three Sanddunes & three palm (date) trees and BSG badge in a ring with words 'Desert Scouts' and 'मरु स्काउट' (See design on Cover)

Rule 281 (6) Desert Rover Scouts.

Desert Rover Scouts wear uniform as for Desert Scouts as described in Rule 280, but with the following differences .—

Shoulder Strap :-Slip on of Camel colour with words ' Desert Rover Scouts".

Shoulder Knot :-Red, Green and Blue.

Staff. As for Scouts.

282. **Scouters :** All Scouters, except as provided in subsequent rules under this heading, wear uniform as for Scout, Sea Scout, Air Scout or **Desert Scout** as the case may be as described in Rule 277, 278, 279 and 280 [281 (6)] respectively . ...

Part

Section XV– Des

402. A Cub Pack includes ·D:

Rule 417. One Star Tests :

For Desert Cubs add th

(1) Know the pr the people living in t problem of water supply and k ods of obtaining water. Protec from getting polluted.

(2) Know the local m water.

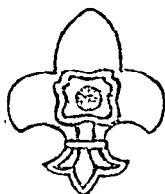
Rule 419. Two Star Tests:-

For Desert Cubs add the follow

1. Know the usefulness a pet animal.

2. Should render service Desert welfare or plant a tree a three months.

Section XIV–The Deser

Rule 451. Tenderfoot.

For Desert Sco test be added :—

1. Should be water from a wel

Rule 454. The General Scheme of Scout Proficiency Badges—

* * * * *

(iii) Five additional special merit (combined proficiency) Badges based on the holding of certain badges under (ii).

President's Scout, Jungle Goph, Seaman's, Airman's and **Desertman's** badges and the Scout cords. The tests for these are set out in Rules 450-455.

* * * * *

(v) While certain badges are primarily designed for Sea Scouts, Air Scouts and **Desert Scouts**, all badges are available to any scout, provided satisfactory arrangements for testing can be made.

* * * * *

Rule 455.

* * * * *

(viii) The Desertman's Badge is a chord and is worn round the right shoulder.

Rule 456. Second Class.

* * * * *

Note (b) —For Desert Scouts the following changes may be made :—

Test No. I—First Aid.

Add—be able to recognise the following

special dangers in the desert and also know the precautions to be taken against each :

Guinea worm (**Bala or Nehrua**), Poisonin through the respiration due to snake inhalation (*Peen.* **Snake); Bhanwari i. e. land slide pala** in the night

2 Signalling--

Instead of it, pass Nature-craft part of Desert Folk badge.

3. Pioneering—

Add **Mohra** Knot (Triangular and square and **Chikka** Knot.

4. Fire-lighting--

Add. be able *to light fire by the use of* stee flint or by any other natural method.

Rule 458. First Class.

For Desert Scouts the following changes may be made ;—

Swimming Test.

Instead of it, have 'A Special knowledge of the camel, on the lines of Camelman Badge.

Pioneering Test–

Add the following : Knows:—

(a) How to tie a **Belch**

(b) How to prepare

(c) How to make a

First Aid Test.

Be able to recognise the following ailments and know how to protect against these—

(a) *Ghee Peenio.*

(b) Jaundice.

(c) *Pitti.*

Journey Test—

Ten miles hike on camel back should be accepted.

*   *   *   *   *

Rule 463 Deserts man's Badge—

For Desert Scouts only:—

(1) Must be a First Class Desert Scout.

(2) Pass *one* out of the following badges:— Desert Folk, Camelman, Soil Conservation.

(3) Pass *one* out of the following badges.—

Dairyman, Sheep Farmer, Friend to Animals Poultry Farmer, Farmer, Rural Worker, Rural Engineer.

(4) Pass *one* out of the following badges:— Hiker, Naturalist, Weatherman, Forester, Bird Warden, Gardener and Tracker.

Rule 464.

Jungle Goph, Seaman's Badge, Airman's Badge and **Desertman's Badge** are alternative;.........

Rule 365. President's Scout—

*   *   *   *   *

3 (b) hold one of the badges qualifying for the

Jungle Goph or **Desertman's badge**; Seaman's or Airman's Badges.

* * * * *

Rule 473. Add the following Proficiency Badges:-

(101) Desert Folk--

Have knowledge of the following :—

(i) **Life in the Desert.**

Through his own study and observation of the life in the desert know the following:—

(a) Geographical situation–land, rivers, climate, etc.

(b) How people live ?

(c) Standard and way of life, costumes normally worn, food habits etc.

(d) Normal habits of the people, social customs, traditions, religion, superstition, and taboos.

(e) Ways of earning the livelihood.

(f) General problems of the people created by nature and ways of solving them.

Submit report of the three hikes undertaken for the study of the above. The report should cover an area of 15 miles all round his village or

one tree and ten *Kuchas of moonj* and look after these for three months.

(vi) Have general knowledge of the organisation, work and experiments of theSoil Conservation Board of his area

Section XVII– Desert Rover Scouts

Rule 503. Proficiency Badges.

(1) There are **Six** Merit (Special Proficiency) badges for Rovers: The Rover Progress Badge, the Rambler's Badge, the World Friendship, the Civil Defence Badge, Soil Conservation and the Desert Folk.

(2) A Scout entering the Crew, having already gained the Jungle Goph . ... . If he has gained either the Seaman's or Airman's or the Desertman's Badge, he will wear a miniature replica of it......

Rule 504. Progress Badge– Add at the end :—

Subjects c vith the Desert we
may be taken Rover Scouts.

Rule 505. Ran

For Desert urnies unde
on ted.

R **Badge :**
D e followi
tl ts :—

toms
tra ts.

b

Special Training

(In addition to normal Guide Tests)

(a) For Desert Bulbuls or Brownies :

(Same as for Desert Cubs).

(b) Desert Guides or Desert Girl Scouts :

TENDER FOOT—Should be able to dı water from a well or reservoir.

SECOND CLASS—(i) Instead of Signallin Plant a tree and take care of it for 3 months or grc two vegetables in a kitchen garden. (ii) Be able ι tie and use △ Moharaa Knot, (iii) First Aid–Similar to Scout tests.

FIRST CLASS--Add more tests (i) Be abl to prepare loaves of coarse grains (such as Bajra, Maize), some local beverage (such as Khichari, or Rabri) and local vegetables (such as Gwarfali, or Kachri), (ii) be able to tie □ Moharaa knot.

For President's Guide Badge–

Include Soil conservation or Desert folk badge as obligatory.

Proficiency Badges--

Three badges similar to those of Scouts, but with slight variation to suit the girls, viz. Soil conservation, Desert folk, and Camel woman. The following alterations, in syllabus given in Chapter II, are hereby suggested :-

(i) SOIL CONSERVATION—Log book be maintained for at least 2 months in test No. 3. For Test No. 5 only one tree be planted.

(2) **DESERT FOLK** For Test No. 1 the log should be based on studies in two outings in the village. Drop part (?) of this Test For Test No 4, replace by (ii) prepare an design of **MEHNDI** (decoration of the palm of a hand) or **RANGOLI** (decoration of the ... by painting) depicting life in desert or Participate in some folk dance or two folk songs or two folk lores." For Test No. 5- replace by "grow 5 kg of three kinds of vegetables in a season in a kitchen garden or plant one tree near home or school and take care for 3 months with the help of her patrol.

(3) **CAMEL WOMAN** For Test No 3 (iii)-Hiking on Camel back be optional or only up to 5 miles or may be dropped as per local conditions Rest of the test be taken up as usual

(c) Desert Ranger Guides :

1. In **STAR BADGE** Include (i) cooking of local course grain preparations with two sweet dishes, (ii) precaution against guinea worm and (iii) tailor craft for local costumes such as brassiers (choli) or pettycoat (Ghagra)

2 For **DESERT FOLK BADGE** Include (i) prepraing a camel knot (Moharaa) (ii) Participate in 5 folk songs sung on festivals and marriage etc. and in a folk dance, (iii) keep a pet domestic animal at house for 3 months and (iv) draw water from a well

3 For **SOIL-CONSERVATION** include additional tests to 'Soil conservation' badge guides as given for Rover Scouts in A P

DESERT SCOUTING

(A SPECIAL BRANCH OF SCOUTING)

A special branch known as "Desert Scouts" has recently been introduced in Rajasthan and has been approved by the National Council of the Bharat Scouts & Guides. This is a branch which aims to train scouts living in desert areas keeping in view their special needs and conditions prevailing in the deserts. This is a contribution which Bharat Scouts & Guides have made to World-Scouting as this branch could be developed in other countries also having desert areas. ... These branches have the same aims, method and fundamentals but train Scouts keeping in view their special intrests and needs.

R. S. DHIMAN
Camp Chief (Scouts)

[In "Different Branches of Scouting" published in "BHARAT SCOUTS & GUIDES" Magazine-June 1970 . Page 10]

Our Determination . .

DESERT SCOUTING is nothing new, but it is an honest effort to bring home the real Scouting suited to the desertic conditions and the community living there in. It has its own scope and possibilities in the desert countries everywhere' With this optimistic determination we present this booklet *DESERT SCOUTING IN ACTION* to all the desertic countries to adopt it suited to their local environment *Editors*

For all the inadvertent ommissions, commissions and errors, the Press, the Editors, the Publishers and the Author sincerely express regret.

Shri Om Dutt, Publisher